

Letters to the Editor

"Arts at the Front"

May I warmly congratulate you on your timely and enlightening editorial Feb. 18? Possibly the only way to force Khrushchev to release the brave dissident Russian writers from the mental institutions to which they were committed for their courageous criticism of the regime is to give this fact the widest possible publicity in the Free World press.

Let it not be forgotten that Boris Pasternak was saved from similar treatment only because his case became so well known in the West. No matter how dictatorial may the Soviet government be, it still cannot entirely disregard the world public opinion.

This explains why your editorial has so worried A. I. Zinchuk, the Soviet Embassy press attache, (March 2). Mr. Zinchuk maintains that this editorial was based on "half-imported and half-invented local rumors published in your paper of Feb. 17." He failed, however, to specify what, precisely, were these objectionable "rumors."

Since Mr. Zinchuk is so sure that these "rumors" are false, wouldn't he, perhaps, care to enlighten your readers on the following three points:

Is Mr. Valeriy Yakovlevich Tarsis the author of the *Blue-bottle* (published in English by Collins, London, and in Russian by the Magazine *Grani*, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, West Germany), or is he not?

Are the poems and articles reprinted in *Gosp*. (Issue 52, 1962) from the Soviet student's magazine *Phosfor*, genuine, or are they a fabrication?

If Mr. Zinchuk is positive that the following Soviet authors were really committed to

insane asylums by the Soviet government could he please inform your readers as to the whereabouts of V. I. Tarsis, M. A. Naritsa, and V. V. Ovechkin? This would enable the Western journalists in Moscow to visit these authors and obtain their denials.

As the representative of *Grani* in this country, I am partly responsible for the publication of the information contained in the article in your Feb. 17 issue. Mr. Zinchuk's remarks challenge the veracity of these reports. Such a challenge, I feel, I cannot leave unanswered, even though it comes from a representative of the Soviet press which is renowned the world over for its unswerving dedication to the truth.

C. W. BOLDYREFF,
Representative of the Magazine
Grani in U. S. A.